



Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter

Special Edition

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



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~~ Brother Fairchild's Corner ~~

Brothers, in my beginning statement in the just released October 1st Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter, I alluded to the role the father plays in a family and our role as a Fraternity in working with fathers, men and boys, helping them to be better, as being critical to our longevity.

At our issues forum at the **Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference**, September 20-24 which was a huge success, one of the areas of focus was: *when fathers and men are not in position or their role is weakened, it impacts the vulnerability of our women, children and community.*

It is long past time that fathers and men speak up, speak out, and take a stand on Justice – protecting our communities. Considering the circumstances and conditions we currently face, it is time for fathers and men to raise up their level of voice and activism.

In light of the information presented here and the information presented in the just released October 1 Newsletter, Omega men's influence is being felt in dynamic and purposeful ways.

See the additional Newsletter Feature items listed below.

1. **Fatherhood Uplift from New York Knicks;**
2. In **Cincinnati**, Beta Iota Chapter Holds its first Fatherhood Celebration Weekend of activities;
3. In **Washington, DC**, Dr. Marco Clark continues his Man The Block Program: Men of Omega Stand up for our children offering them safe passage to school;
4. In **New York City**, Epsilon Chapter, in collaboration with The Invictus Greater New York City Foundation, New York University Silver School of Social Work and NYU Langone's Clinical and Translational Science Institute, sponsors its First Youth Leadership Conference.
5. In **Atlanta**, Omega motorcycle riders launch a **Campaign to Roll Over Cancer** in support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
6. In **Washington, DC** Additional Photographs from the CBCF Conference, courtesy of Bro. James G. Witherspoon Sr. International Photographer, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

In Friendship,

Bro. Fairchild



Brother Robert W. Fairchild,
Chairman International Committee
on Fatherhood and Mentoring

President Obama's Fatherhood Legacy Lives On!

Uplift From New York Knicks

By Brother Thabiti Boone

New York, NY – Craig Robinson, older Brother of Michelle Obama and Brother-in-Law of President Obama has joined the NY Knicks operations and community leadership team.

Craig and I have a great relationship from my White House work with President Obama. He is a former college basketball player and teammate of Knicks President Steve Mills. They played together at Princeton.

We will be working together through the Nicks basketball operations and community initiatives office. He is familiar with

L-R: Craig Robinson, Brother Thabiti Boone

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's work and partnership with President Obama.

Craig and I will be working directly together continuing to provide the Fraternity with ongoing partnership efforts to keep President Obama's Fatherhood legacy alive.



L-R: An Omega Brother, Allen Houston (NBA) and Brother Thabiti Boone



Spike Lee, Allen Houston, NBA All Star, Brother Thabiti Boone and child of photographer

The Knicks "Tickets Together" Program

On behalf of the New York Knicks, I created and spearhead our Knicks Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative "**Tickets Together**" – a program that puts a spotlight on the importance of Fatherhood and Mentoring.

The program was created in conjunction with President Obama's Fatherhood Mentoring Initiative in 2010. It offers fathers, father figures, mentors and their children or mentees an opportunity to attend our home games as our special VIP guests as a means of highlighting the importance of Fatherhood & Mentoring. The Program promotes the importance of bonding and time together.



L-R, John Wallace, former NBA Knicks Player, Brother Thabiti Boone, Omega Brother with child and Larry Johnson, NBA All Star

One of the largest barriers for fathers, is spending quality enjoyable time with their children, particularly around shared common interest and activities. Research indicates, the amount of time a father spends with his child, is the largest indicator of a healthy, loving, meaningful relationship between them. Children don't necessarily see child support, but they can see and feel time with their dads.

The Program is supported by the NBA, our player's, corporate partners and fan base.

The program raises awareness about Fatherhood in front of millions of fans, raising the NBA profile as a fatherhood and family friendly environment.

I serve as program host. Over the years I've invited Omega Psi Phi Brother's to enjoy the opportunity to bond and connect with their child or mentee with a game experience. I'm looking forward to greater involvement by brothers of Omega Psi Phi. In friendship my brothers, I am

Brother Boone

LATE BREAKING OMEGA GOOD NEWS STORY from NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



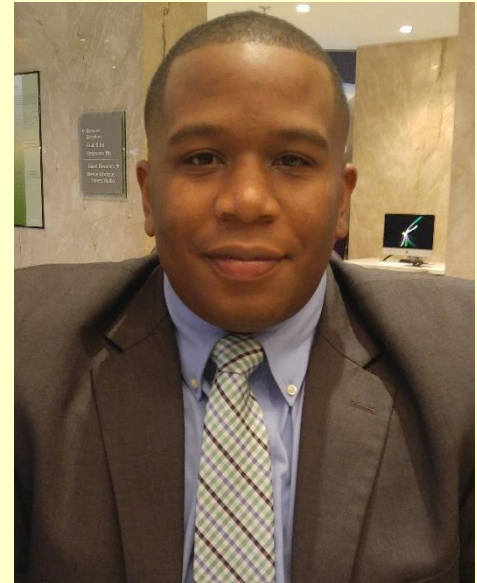
See Story Pages 8 - 10.

See Fatherhood and Mentoring Web Site: www.omegafandm.org

Our Undergraduate Leadership – Future Dad’s Program

My Name is Brother Cody Charles. I currently serve as Second Vice Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Two initiatives that have been a strong focus of the Undergraduate Leadership are the **Future Dad’s Initiative** and the famed **Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) in Los Angeles, California**. Serving as leaders of not only our beloved organization but the communities in which we live, we recognize the need to not only educate the masses and be that guiding light that shows them how to be a young father, but how to also embrace the responsibilities that come with such honor.

Instilling the principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift in every individual that we encounter is our duty as a village to raise a child. In every capacity that we as the Undergraduate Leadership may serve, we do so with the opportunity to mentor young lives and watch them grow to their full potential. In the words of our 40th Grand Basileus, Brother Antonio F. Knox, **"We Are One"** and must continue to answer the call when called upon!



Cody Charles, 2nd Vice Grand Basileus

In Cincinnati, OH

Beta Iota Holds Its First Fatherhood Celebration Weekend

Cincinnati, OH – September 15 – 17, 2017 – The Brothers of Beta Iota Chapter hosted a three-day Fatherhood Celebration Weekend in September. “Fatherhood is about more than just that one day in June,” said Beta Iota Fatherhood Chair, Brother Quintin Sweat, Sr.

“The session ... covered key messages ... the role of the father in the family and the importance of waiting until the right time to be a father.”



Enjoying the game at Withrow

“Our Fatherhood Celebration Weekend provided an opportunity to touch on all four pillars of the Fatherhood Initiative—Raising

Awareness, Partnering with Others, Advocating for Fathers, and Celebrating Fathers”.

Friday Night Football – The weekend started with a night of football at Withrow High School, where Omega men serve as head and assistant coaches. Parents and students were treated to a pre-game tailgate with free food and drinks before heading into the stadium to watch the game. It was a great way for fathers to build fond memories with their children, and a visible example of fathers spending leisure time with their children.

Focus on Fatherhood – Saturday included a full day of activities as the Chapter conducted its Focus on Fatherhood session. The session was held at the Avondale Boys & Girls Club, and was open to fathers, mothers, and children ages 8 - 17. The day began with a continental breakfast followed by a series of workshops.

The workshops for parents included *Family Law*, where fathers learned how to navigate the legal system to establish his rights as a father, and *Healthy Co-Parenting*, which focused on creating an environment where the children benefit from father and mother working together. “I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop on co-parenting. I’ll be able to share my learning with family back home to hopefully initiate some healing and progress,” said Brother Eric Thompson.

THE GREAT THOUGHT QUESTIONS SERIES

Beginning with this special edition of the Newsletter, we will periodically ask a question or two and invite brothers to respond. The first of these questions is: “What ought Omega men be doing to illuminate Manhood?”

Responses to the thought question may appear in subsequent issues of the Newsletter.



Advocating for Fathers Town Hall

The adult workshops were conducted by representatives from The Talbert House, which is a community-wide, nonprofit network of services for children, adults and families. Their Fatherhood Project program assists men in their efforts to become responsible, committed and nurturing fathers. For the past few years, the Brothers of Beta Iota Chapter have volunteered at the Talbert House’s Father’s Day event, and this was a way to leverage that relationship for the benefit of the community.

While the adults were in their workshops, the youth participated in the *Fatherhood and the Family* module from the Boys & Girls Club’s *Passport to Manhood* series. The session, which was led by Fourth District Fatherhood & Mentoring Chair, Brother Jerry Leftwich, covered key messages, such as the role of the father in the family and the importance of waiting until the right time to be a father. After the workshop, Brother Tony Betts noted that his son told him that “he learned to not be a dad early because he’s not ready.”

The adults and children came back together for lunch before separating again for the afternoon. The youth were free to enjoy the games and Teen Lounge at the club, while the adults participated in the *Advocating for Fathers Town Hall*. All nine seats of the Cincinnati City Council are up for reelection in November, and

the Town Hall featured six of the candidates for office.



City Council Candidates

Brother Ronnie X Black was the moderator for the Town Hall. The City Council candidates answered questions that included:

What actions will you take to support fathers playing an active and responsible role in the lives of their children?

How do you see yourself in the struggle to focus public attention on the concerns and importance of Fatherhood and Mentoring?

What is your ideology on the importance of partnering with community organizations, government agencies, and fatherhood programs within the Cincinnati urban community?

Finally, all six candidates pledged that, if elected, they would support and promote fatherhood initiatives through city resources, including the allocation of funds.

Daddy's Promise

The day wrapped up with the *Daddy's Promise* pledge. Fathers were provided with printed and framed pledges ready to be signed and presented to their children. Then, the fathers joined together in a powerful recitation of the pledge.

(<https://youtu.be/iyq5yr-gfaY>)

Daddy's Promise

Dear _____

I make this pledge to you because I love you.

I promise to always support you, no matter the conditions.

I promise to keep you safe no matter the danger, yet let you grow and live your life.

I promise to be your rock and give you encouragement in times of need.

I promise to always respect you and live as an example of what a good man should be.

I promise to share my knowledge, my mistakes, and my lessons, so you can gain wisdom from my life.

I promise, whenever I can, to make your road smoother.

I promise to answer when you call, be there when you need me, and even when you think you don't.

I promise to show you how important you are to me.

I promise that I will always be in your life and be the best father I can be.

And most of all, I promise a lifetime of love.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Purple Tie Sunday – Brothers concluded the weekend with a Sunday morning worship service at Christ Emmanuel Church. The Brothers collected an offering, which Basileus Mike West presented to the church body, followed by Beta Iota Chaplain, Elder Scotty Johnson bringing the message. Brother Johnson delivered an inspired sermon on the importance of fathers being there for their children under all circumstances.



Brothers Worshiping together

Overall, it was great weekend of celebrating and raising awareness of the importance of fatherhood with an emphasis on advocating in support of fathers and families. As Brother Emory Ogletree put it, “The Fatherhood Celebration was a good weekend and very informative. All I can see for the future is that it will get bigger and better.”

In Washington, DC

7th Annual Man the Block Safe Passage Program

Brothers of the Third and Second Districts, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., with Mr. Doug E. Fresh & Brother Robert W. Fairchild, at the 7th Annual Man the Block Party, Richard Wright Public Charter School, Washington, DC.



Third District (Washington, D.C. and Virginia) - On October 3, 2017, Brothers from the Third and Second Districts, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., supported the 7th Annual **Man the Block** Party which was held at the Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts located in Washington, DC.

Brother Kevin Brown, Third District Representative, requested that the Brothers come out, support and participate in this event. Bro. Conrado B. Morgan, First Vice District Representative represented the Third District leadership.

Bro. Robert Fairchild, International Fatherhood and

Mentoring Chairman, Bro. Raymond Bell, Third District Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative Chairman, Bro. Donald Williams Second District Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative Chairman and other brothers were in attendance.

The event was attended and hosted by Bro. Dr. Marco Clark, one of the Founders of this prestigious charter school. Students, parents, members of the community, police officers, Navy sailors, the Marine Corp and brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., were in attendance. The special guest was Mr. Doug E. Fresh, **The Human Beat Box**, who entertained the crowd for at least an hour and a half non-stop with his signature style and songs. His appearance was enjoyed by all both young and seasoned.



L-R: Brother Dr. Marco Clark, Founder and CEO Richard Wright Charter School, Doug E. Fresh, Bro. Greg Adams, Chairman of the Board Richard Wright Charter School.

Omega and its Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative has always supported the efforts for **Man the Block Safe Passage Program** and other efforts to improve the lives and education of the students at

Richard Wright. Each year Brother Antonio Knox, Grand Basileus, has made a generous financial contribution to Brother Dr. Clark and the school to help in support of the students.

The Man the Block Program was designed to ensure safe passage for students at Richard Wright Public Charter School while shielding them from negativity and violence that sometimes flares in the surrounding community. Brother Dr. Clark and Mr. Doug E. Fresh both stated that "unity" is still spelled out in the word "community" and that there is no "community" without **unity**. Please visit www.richardwrightpcs.org for more information about the school.

In New York City

New York, NY (October 7, 2017) – NYU Silver School of Social Work PhD Candidate and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Brother James Railey opened a Youth Leadership Conference for young people of color and their parents at NYU's Kimmel Center for University Life Saturday, October 7, 2017.

This first ever event at NYU was sponsored by the Invictus Greater New York City Foundation, supported by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Epsilon Chapter, and co-sponsored by New York University Silver and New York University Langone's Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

Brother Thabiti Boone, who represented President Obama's Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative attended the inaugural event. He said, "I'm reporting on the tremendous, successful, powerful, impacting Youth Leadership Conference hosted by the Brothers of Epsilon Chapter and visionary Brother James Railey."



Brother James Railey PhD
Candidate, Conference Organizer

Boone said, “Nearly 200 hundred youth attended the NYC conference held at New York University. Middle and High School young men and young ladies participated along with parents, community leaders, organizations, educators, Divine 9 members and Omega men throughout NYC in a conference filled with presentations, energetic interactive workshops, networking and outstanding fellowship. Omega officers from the International, District, and local level were in attendance to provide support and encouraging remarks.”



Brother Thabiti Boone and Conference Participants

Speaking about the event, Railey thanked all for the uplift and support! He said, “the inaugural YLC at NYU was a success on many levels with nearly 200 youth, parents, brotherhood, volunteers/presenters.” Railey explained that the conference is a replication of one that was developed in Los Angeles by the Tau Tau Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in the wake of the 1992 riots to support the development of young African American males.

The Youth Leadership Conference in Southern California has touched the lives of nearly 6,000 youth in the greater Los Angeles area, instilling principles of personal and social responsibility and providing them with tools necessary for self-respect, health and wellness, community leadership, and conflict resolution. It has also spawned similar conferences in other cities including Atlanta, San Antonio, St. Louis, and now New York City. Omega officers from the International, District, and local level were in attendance to provide support and encouraging remarks.

Brother Clyde Cole, who co-chaired the conference and prepared the curriculum said in a note to Railey, “James, thank you for your endurance and persistence. Your vision and leadership made yesterday a reality. The lives impacted will be countless, and I am including mine. I am grateful for what you did for me and my city.”



Beautiful New York!



“When you build it, they will come!”

Brother Cole continued his statement with a message to his brothers: “Ques, we did it. History. Again. And it will only get better from here. We have chapters and sororities and other organizations” wanting to get involved. He forecast help for more kids, more parents, more presenters. “The sky is the limit, truly. Shout to those that took the journey with us from concept to reality. Shout to those who believed in us the same way that NYU believed in us. Big shout to those who were there yesterday,” he wrote.

In a subsequent message to Brother Railey, Brother Boone said, “as I indicated in my remarks, you are to be commended for your vision, thinking enough of young people, to plan and organize an awesome inaugural YLC. I'm sure Brother Taylor, Ricky Lewis and the 12th District are proud of your efforts.” For information about this event, contact: james.railey@gmail.com.

In Atlanta

Atlanta Omega’s Support St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital with a Health Initiative

Atlanta, GA - With Engines raised and kick-stands up the Omega Psi Phi motorcycle riders launched an active campaign to roll over cancer in support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Health experts, community activists, and political leaders joined the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's, Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative, Atlanta Chapters and Project Friendship, Inc., to bring cancer awareness and health education sessions to the Omega World Center in Decatur, Georgia. Anthony Davis, Health Initiative Chairman, Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter led the bikers from Alabama, South Carolina and Georgia around I-285 of Atlanta while the health exposition facilitator Oliver Barker conducted sessions where U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Congressman Henry "Hank" Johnson (D-GA) gave details of health care legislation and how it affected the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Congressman Johnson emphasized the importance for all Americans to be able to receive health care. He discussed how partisan politics in Georgia and Washington DC kept the ACA out of the State of Georgia. He also urged voters to tell their legislators to continue to improve and keep the ACA. Emmett Turner of the Alabama Regional Health Medical Services joined the ACA panel and provided statistics and life changing health care stories where millions of Americans who before ACA never had health insurance now receives treatment.



Local health care provider **Candaze Barker, Nurse Practitioner** and a Capstone Medical Group representative described how individuals' reluctance to take preventive measures cause cancer related issues to magnify. American Cancer Society's Tonya Phillips engaged the audience during the breast and prostate cancer discussions with informative health care practices that could lead to early detection of cancer. She stated one of the simplest actions patients can take is to "tell their doctors about their family health history." Also, the audience was informed that patients should identify to their doctor major defects in internal body functions and identify abnormal external tissue growth which normally signals something is not right.

Brittany Torke, Certified Nurse Midwife and **Torri M. Johnston, Enabling Services and Community Relations** representative both of the Oakhurst Medical Center, provided insight on symptoms patients can look for to detect breast cancer. One unique discussion aired was the need for spouses' support during cancer identification and treatment. Mary Washington, spouse of a prostate cancer survivor, detailed the benefits of having a support group and how family alienation by cancer victims can complicate the healing process.

The health expo also tackled the forbidden fruit of mental health. The **Brother You're on My Mind** mental health session headed by **Dr. Tabitha D. Ball, Licensed Clinical Psychologist** of Unique and Innovative Solutions and **Benjamin McAfee, a National Institute of Health Intern**, challenged the health expo attendees to overcome the stigmas associated with mental health. Dr. Ball relayed how mental health patients fear receiving treatment because of society's labels of being inadequate, crazy and dysfunctional. She encouraged people to seek help in the simplest manner; for example, talking to a certified counselor in order to be able to manage the mental challenges they face. Mr. McAfee related personal encounters with mental health disorders and how treatment can change behavior.



Congressman Henry “Hank” Johnson engages with community in Q and A session

Dialogue and questions facilitated during the intense sessions prompted honest engagement which empowered attendees with information that can be taken and related in the community. **Maria Hultine, of the American, Lebanese, and Syrian Associates Charities** - a fundraising and awareness organization for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital addressed and thanked the fraternity for its support.

Other Atlanta area National Pan - Hellenic Council members of **Zeta Phi Beta** and **Delta Sigma Theta** Sororities joined the Omega’s to promote the initiative. Medical education tables were displayed and screenings were conducted by the American Cancer Society, Capstone Medical Group, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and the Atlanta HIV-AIDs Mobile Unit.

According to **S. Earl Wilson, Co-Chairman, International Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative Committee, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**, the campaign energized individual donors to sign the cancer survivors and memorial wall at \$5.00 per name. **The wall donation campaign** will continue through November. The fraternity will make its donation as it culminates the end of the fiscal year and celebrate the annual Achievement Week program.

In the Thirteenth

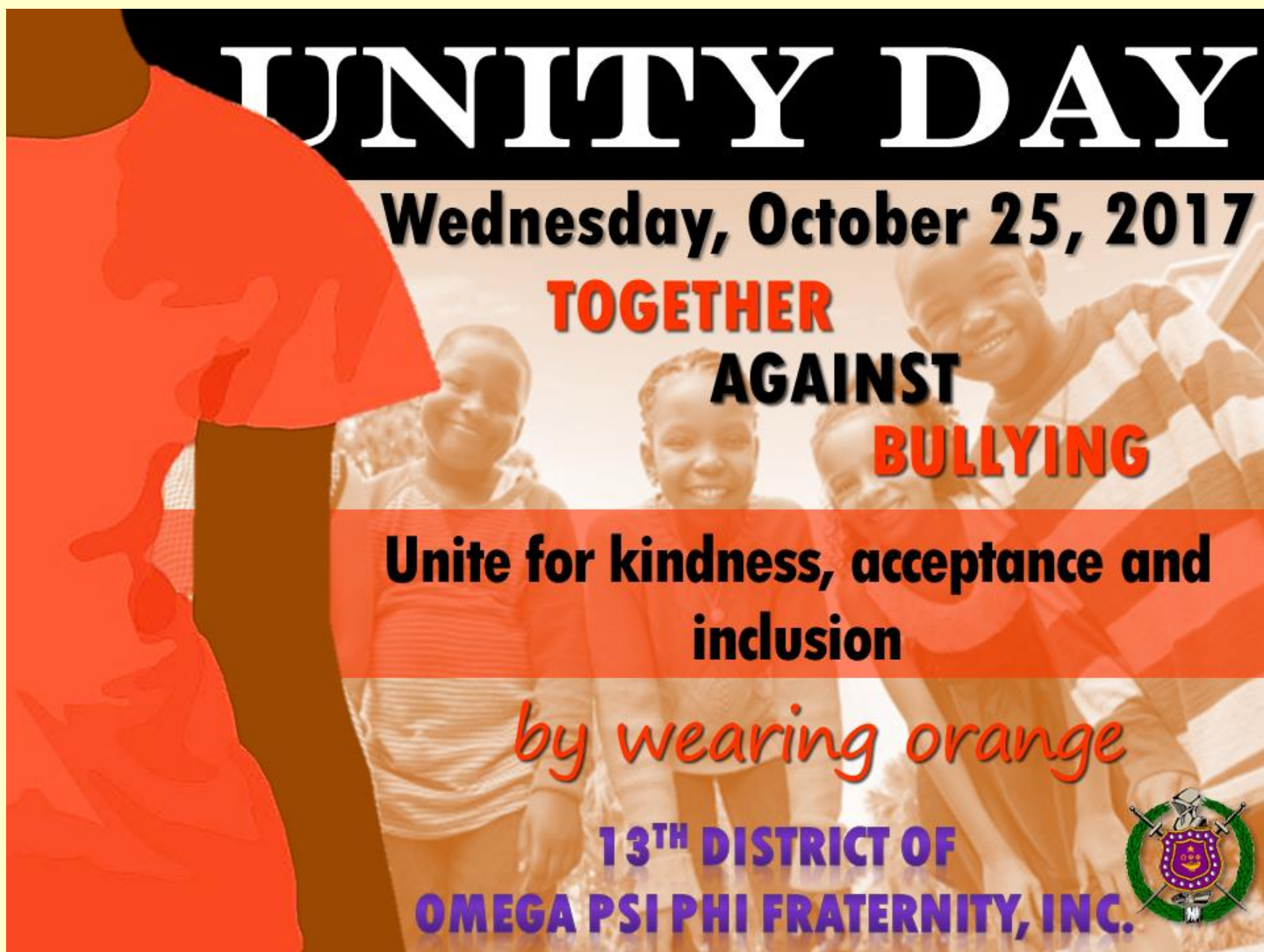
13th District Promotes Unity Day 2017 Anti-Bullying Campaign

(Bahamas, Germany, Hawai’i, Japan, Puerto-Rico, South Korea, US VI)

Submitted by Brother Michael Robinson

13th District Social Action Chairman

October is anti-bullying prevention month. Mrs. Julie Hertz, director of PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center, says more than one of every five school-aged children report being bullied. To show these children, they are not alone, the Brothers of the 13th District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. are promoting “Unity Day” Wednesday, October 25, 2017.



Participants in this campaign will wear orange at school, at work, or wherever they go on **Unity Day**. The objective is for everyone (students, parents, teachers, co-workers and members of the community) to come together in one giant message of support, hope, and unity while increasing the awareness of bullying. The Brothers of the 13th District along with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., 40th Grand Basileus Antonio Knox fully support the anti-bullying campaign while expanding efforts internationally to end bullying.

See Fatherhood and Mentoring Web Site: www.omegafandm.org

In Los Angeles

Zeta Rho Chapter

35th ANNUAL SALUTE AND SCHOLARSHIP

On Saturday, June 3, 2017 – Zeta Rho Chapter and the Bridge Builders Foundation, awarded over 40 scholarships (\$50,000+) to African American male scholars (8 new scholars and 33 recurring scholars) in fulfillment of our annual Salute and Scholarship program. This year's distinguished honorees were, Sharanelle Clark (Hitachi), Arnold Hackett (Xerox), David Ford (SCE), and Bertral Washington (Pasadena Fire Chief). The honorees all have a longstanding history of professional excellence and community involvement.



The event was highlighted by a presentation from Caylin Moore, a 2012 Scholarship Recipient, Fulbright Scholar, and 2017 recipient of the distinguished Rhodes Scholarship. Caylin is a shining example, worthy of recognition. He shared powerful words of encouragement for the incoming scholars, as well as praise and appreciation for the Chapter and Foundation “Start-to-Finish” commitment in his life.

The Scholars will be attending Morehouse, Howard, Marquette University, UC Irvine, Santa Clara University, Northwestern, and Cal Poly Pomona.

More about Congressional Black Caucus/Omega Psi Phi Panel

By George D. Taylor, EdD

Washington, DC, September 21, 2017 – Following opening remarks by Congressman James E. Clyburn, (D-SC), Thabiti Boone, Fatherhood Representative and Liaison to Former President Barack Obama's White House, opened the Congressional Black Caucus/Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Issues Forum by introducing Host Congressman Clyburn and Grand Basileus Antonio F. Knox, Sr., 40th Grand Basileus of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Grand Basileus Knox presented Congressman Clyburn with an award for his exceptional work on behalf of the people of South Carolina. Knox reminded the audience: “We can never think that our vote doesn't count. Every vote counts. People died so that we could vote; local elections are important; state elections are important. The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity voter education and registration drive continues,” he said.

S. Earl Wilson, Co-Chairman of the International Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee made a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the fraternity's commitment to keeping President Obama's Fatherhood & Mentoring legacy alive. He cited several Obama era initiatives: Brother You're on My Mind, Affordable Health Care, Criminal Reform-Reentry, and Mentoring activities that remain active fraternity initiatives.

PowerPoint presentation below, courtesy of Brother S. Earl Wilson, Co-Chairman of the International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative

Mission

Work to close the gap on father absence; promoting fatherhood, highlighting the necessity of mentoring and the importance of father's playing an active, responsible role in the lives of their children.

- Protect & Continue President Obama's Legacy
- Implement Criminal Justice Reform
- End Mass Incarceration
- Increase Education
- Affordable Health Care Act
- Fight Racial Injustice
- Increase Mental Health Awareness



In 2010, President Barack Obama enjoyed a moment with the leadership of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Brothers present in the photo included: Brothers Robert W. Fairchild, Christopher M. Cooper, 31st Grand Basileus Burnel Coulon, 35th Grand Basileus Dorsey C. Miller, 39th Grand Basileus Andrew Ray, 38th Grand Basileus Warren G. Lee, Jr., President Barack Obama, 36th Grand Basileus Lloyd Jordan, 1st Vice Grand Basileus Antonio F. Knox, Sr., Rice C. Wade, Thabiti Boone and 33rd Grand Basileus Moses C. Norman.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Plan of Action

Ω 750 Chapters both nationally and internationally have touched over 100,000 fathers through training, fatherhood rallies, mentorship programs, father & youth socials, panel discussions, youth conferences, sports, and partnership with other entities.



Brother Congressman Hank Johnson, (GA-D) Supports Atlanta Chapters' Fatherhood Youth Conference at the Omega World Center

Criminal Justice Reform- Re-Entry



Las Vegas, NV – The Fraternity held its 80th Grand Conclave in Las Vegas, July 24 - 28. Under the leadership, direction and generosity of the Adams brothers (**Dr. Leary Adams of Las Vegas and his brother, Dr. Timothy “Tim” Adams of Baltimore, MD**), several Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., visited the Southern Desert Correctional Center Facility (SDCCF) just north of Las Vegas on US-95. The visitation was part of the Building Bridges Back to Society (BBBS) planned by the Social Action Committee of the Fraternity to engage with inmates and bring awareness to President Barack Obama’s Criminal Justice Reform Legislation.

Pictured in the photograph above are Brothers Antonio Knox, Sr., 40th Grand Basileus of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Dr. David Marion, 1st Vice Grand Basileus. They joined Brothers Dr. Leary Adams (Program Coordinator), Thabiti Boone, Brian Williams (Warden, Southern Desert Correctional Center Facility), Anthony Stewart (Warden, Michigan Correctional Facility), Miguel Sanchez, Dr. George D. Taylor, Rev. Dr. Earl Smith, Rev. Dr. Bishop Carter, Al White (Chairman, Social Action Committee), Travis Kennon, Randy Bacon and Clarence Longley with inmates.

Brother Thabiti Boone was among the men who visited the SDCCF. He gave a rousing and highly motivating talk to the inmates reminding them of why we were there. *“You are going home and we want you back in your communities. Your children need you – your families need you,”* he said.

BROTHER, YOU'RE ON MY MIND

Mental Health Snapshot of African American Men

Mental health is a topic that many African American men consider taboo and do not often discuss. The fact is that depression is one of the most common mental illnesses but an underrecognized and understudied problem among African American men. Common beliefs about mental health within the African American community include the following:

- ❑ Being depressed is just normal, and talking about it is weak.
- ❑ Getting help is the same as taking your business to a stranger.
- ❑ Nobody cares about your mental health anyway.

These statements are not true. Mental illness is real and affects us all, whether or not we choose to talk about it. Mental health problems can affect us all.



DID YOU KNOW?

- About one in five Americans struggle with a mental illness in any given year, regardless of their race.
- African Americans are 20 percent more likely to have serious psychological distress than Whites are.
- Depression is one of the most common mental health problems in the United States, affecting more than 17 million people each year.
- About 7 percent of Americans experience serious depression each year.
- African Americans' depressive occurrences are more disabling, persistent, and resistant to treatment than those experienced by Whites.
- Suicide is the third leading cause of death among African Americans ages 15 to 24.
- African American men are four times more likely to die by suicide than African American women are.
- Less than half of all Americans with a mental disorder get the treatment that they need. But the proportion of African Americans who need mental health treatment and get it is only half that of Whites.

It's clear that depression and other mental illnesses are just as important for African Americans, particularly African American men, as they are for Americans in general, ignoring those problems or pretending that they don't exist won't make them go away.

KNOW THE SIGNS; RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEMS

Everybody feels down or sad occasionally, but these feelings usually pass within a few days. When feelings of sadness, worry, and hopelessness last for weeks at a time and affect your ability to manage your daily life, you may be experiencing serious depression.

Both men and women get depressed, but men experience depression differently. Men who are depressed may be more likely to be very tired, feel irritable, and have difficulty sleeping. They may be more likely to lose interest in work, family, and hobbies.

For African American men and their families, neglecting mental health needs can be devastating. When mental disorders like depression aren't treated, African American men are more vulnerable to drug or alcohol use, homelessness, incarceration, homicide, and suicide.

The most important thing you can do if you have a problem is recognize it. Depression is not a weakness. It is an illness that can cause disability and even death. But depression is a treatable illness. Your doctor may be able to help.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BARRIERS?

Social circumstances can contribute to a likelihood of developing a mental illness. African Americans are more likely to experience economic distress, racism, and other social circumstances that increase their chances of developing depression or other mental illnesses.

Access to adequate treatment for mental health problems can be difficult for African Americans, for the following reasons:

- ❑ African Americans are less likely to have health insurance.
- ❑ African Americans are less likely to receive an accurate mental health diagnosis and, for those who are diagnosed with depression, less likely to receive treatment than their White counterparts are.
- ❑ Cultural mistrust of mental health professionals and health care professionals in general is common in the African American community.
- ❑ Only a small proportion of mental health professionals are African American.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Historically, African Americans have relied on religious and social communities for emotional support. That's one of the reasons for the Brother, You're on My Mind initiative. Making faith and social communities more aware of the mental illnesses that members face will help those groups support their members, encourage African American men to acknowledge their own needs, and provide resources for members who need help that the community alone can't give.

Organizations with useful information and outreach to African American communities include the following:

- ❑ National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), <http://www.nimhd.nih.gov>
- ❑ National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), <http://www.nimh.nih.gov>
- ❑ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), <http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/>
- ❑ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, <http://www.samhsa.gov>
- ❑ National Alliance on Mental Illness, <http://www.nami.org>
- ❑ National Medical Association, <http://www.nmanet.org>
- ❑ Capstone Institute/Center for Research on the Education of Students Placed at Risk, Howard University, <http://www.capstoneinstitute.org>
- ❑ Lee Thompson Young Foundation, <http://www.lee-thompson-young-foundation.org>
- ❑ Mental Health America, <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/african-american-mental-health>
- ❑ National Black Nurses Association, <http://www.nbna.org>



Brother, You're on My Mind is a partnership between NIMH and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The initiative is devoted to raise awareness of the mental health challenges associated with depression and illness that affect African American men and their families.

MAN 2 MAN
Undergraduate Students
DADS' PANEL DISCUSSION

ΩΨΦ **P-1**

**SATURDAY
JUNE 17, 2017 11AM-4PM**


Join us at this **Free Luncheon & Details** event where Fatherhood, the impact of premature parenting and the laws that affect non-custodial and single parents are presented by Judicial officials, attorneys, family advocates, mediators, students, and parents on:

- Ω A Father's Value
- Ω Pre-mature Parenting
- Ω Both Parents Matter
- Ω Non-custodial Parent Challenges
- Ω Laws that Affect Single parents
- Ω Right Father for Your Child

THE KLAUS LECTURE AUDITORIUM
266 Ferst Drive NW
Atlanta Georgia 30332

For information contact:
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Two initiatives are captured in this slide, the Future Dad's Initiative and the famed Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) in Los Angeles, CA. Recognizing the need to extend and be more intentional about its Fatherhood and Mentoring work, the Fraternity responded and enlisted the help of the undergraduates and initiated a Future Dad's Program. The purpose of the program is not only to bring awareness to the significance of fatherhood in America, but also to enlighten male students (who may be ready to be a father or *may be a father*) on the importance of being and impacting the lives his children. The inaugural program presented at the New Orleans Undergraduate Summit was conceived, planned, organized and administered by undergraduates.

Pictured on the right side of the slide are: L-R, Brother Ricky Lewis, foundering director of the YLC, Dr. Max Nikias, president of the University of Southern California and Brother Dr. George D. Taylor, Marketing and Public Relations, International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and southern California students ready to move on to greater heights. On October 21st Brother Lewis and members of Tau Tau Chapter will open its 24th Annual Youth Leadership Conference. Brother continues to say, "we're just trying to save the lives of some of these young Black boys."

Learn About Fatherhood Support Resources

Websites for assistance
www.allprodad.com
www.fathers.com
www.fatherhood.gov
 Google "Fatherhood" or "Mentorship"
www.Fatherhood.gov
www.Fatherhood Clearing House

Collaborative Partnerships
 White House, HUD, US Dept. of Justice, National Institute of Health
 Congressional Black Caucus,
Fatherhood.gov, U.S. Dept. Education

FRIDAY, AUG 26TH
BUSINESSEXPOSITION
 6 PM - 9 PM

- ❏ Teaching the Art of Entrepreneurship
- ❏ Networking Power
- ❏ Finding Student Internships
- ❏ STEMS Programs

SATURDAY, AUG 27TH
PARENT & YOUTH
 SESSIONS: 10AM - 5PM

- ❏ Parenting Life Skill Tools
- ❏ Youth Relations with Law Enforcement
- ❏ Both Parents Matter
- ❏ Uglitimation Laws
- ❏ Single Parent Challenges
- ❏ Impact of Voting on Youth Justice

THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC., AT WORK September 22, 2017



Supreme Council Photographs Courtesy of Brother James G. Witherspoon, Official Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., International Photographer: jgspoon@gmail.com



Washington, DC (September 22, 2017) – The Supreme Council busy doing the work of Omega that keeps Omega Men in tune with our brothers throughout Omega land. Owing to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma which affected two of the Fraternity’s Districts, the seventh and ninth, District Representatives were asked to develop a list of brothers in need. Grand Basileus Knox encouraged the Supreme Council to lend a helping hand to our brothers in the affected Districts. “When disasters have struck, we’ve been helping brothers. We won’t please everybody, but it is the right thing to do.”

L-R: Brother James H. Cistrunk, 7th District Representative received donation from 12th District Representative Brother James Walker, 40th Grand Basileus Knox and Brother Reggie Harris, FVDR 7th District.

L-R: Brothers Kevin Brown, DR 3rd District; Dr. Delon Brennan, DR 13th District; Harvey Woodson, 3rd D



L-R; Brothers Pat Smith FVDR 9th District, Dr. Kenny Terrell, 9th District, James Walker, 12th District DR, Grand Basileus Knox.



L-R: _____, Kevin Brown, 3rd District Rep; James H. Cistrunk, 7th District Rep; Harvey Woodson, 3rd D



L-R: Pat Smith, FVDR 9th District; Kevin Brown, DR 3rd District; Dr. Kenny Terrell, 9th DR, Harvey Woodson, 3rd D



L-R: Pat Smith, FVDR 9th, Dr. Kenny Terrell, 9th DR, Bryan White, 5th DR, Grand Basileus Knox, Sam McKenzie, FVDR 5th District

Above: Brother Bryan White presents a check to Dr. Kenny Terrell 9th District in support of Brothers of the 9th District who were victims of Hurricane Harvey.



Grand Basileus Knox presents certificates of appreciation to Brothers Robert W. Fairchild, Chairman of the International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring, S. Earl Wilson, Co-Chairman of the Committee and to Thabiti Boone. Others captured are from L-R: Mark Jackson, Former DR 3rd District, Dr. George D. Taylor, member of the committee, Lloyd Jordon, 36th Grand Basileus. This recognition took place during the Omega Psi Phi reception following the panel Supreme Council meeting.



United States Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) and Brother Dr. George D. Taylor reminisce about their first encounter in March, 1965 at the Dexter Avenue (King Memorial) Baptist Church, Montgomery, AL pre- Selma to Montgomery March.

The photograph was taken at the Congressional Black Caucus, Phi Beta Sigma panel discussion, September 20, 2017.

Photographs courtesy of Brother James G. Witherspoon, International Photographer, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

About This Newsletter:

The goal is: to include information from each District each quarter about Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives. District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairmen should submit at least one Fatherhood Activity and at least one Mentoring Activity from their District each quarter to: Brother Dr. George D. Taylor: geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net Quarterly submission deadline: December 15, March 15, Jun 15, and September 15 of the year.